



# M E D I A   R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE

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## **NEW LAW FOR PURCHASING FIREWORKS GOES INTO EFFECT JULY 1**

Nashville, TN.-Teenagers wishing to purchase consumer fireworks must be at least sixteen years old beginning July 1, 2007. Previously, the law allowed those as young as ten to purchase fireworks. Sixteen and seventeen year olds must additionally provide a state-issued photo ID at the time of purchase. A violation of the law could result in a fine to the retailer of up to \$100 for the first offense, \$250 for the second offense, and up to \$500 for all subsequent offenses.

The law is intended to reduce the number of injuries to children caused by improper use of fireworks. According to a nationwide study provided by the National Fire Protection Association, children ages 5-9 face the highest risk of injury from fireworks. In 2004, 55% of people injured by fireworks were under the age of 20, with 40% of the injuries incurred by those under age 15.

State Fire Marshal, Leslie A. Newman, encourages all Tennesseans to attend professional fireworks displays as an alternative to consumer fireworks. "Regardless of your age, displays performed by trained professionals are regulated more closely and follow national safety standards. By avoiding consumer fireworks the risk of personal injury, including burns and damage to fingers, face, and eyes, is greatly reduced."

More information about fireworks safety and fire prevention is available on the web at <http://www.state.tn.us/commerce/sfm/index.html>.

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